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Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

DuPage County Conference Room

Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Willis Tower, Chicago, Illinois

Members Present:

Judy Beck, Robert Cole, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Jim LaBelle, Steve Lazzara (for Curt Paddock), Heather Smith, Heather Tabbert, Nathaniel Werner, Norm West, Jeromie Winsor

Members Absent:

Mark Avery (chair), Jerry Conrad, Roger Dahlstrom, Lisa DiChiera, Karie Friling, David Galowich, Ed Paesel (co-chair), Robert Palmer, Dennis Sandquist, Nancy Williamson

Staff Present:

Stephen Ostrander (committee liaison), Hala Ahmed, John Allen, Lindsay Banks, Patricia Berry, Bob Dean, Pete Saunders

Others Present:

Nora Beck (Congress for the New Urbanism), Ryan Richter (Metra)

1.0 Call to Order

In absence of the committee Chair and Co-Chair, Committee Liaison Stephen Ostrander called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Stephen Ostrander announced that Chair Mark Avery was very ill that morning, and therefore was not able to attend the meeting, while Co-Chair Ed Paesel had to be in Springfield.

Later in the meeting, Stephen introduced Jeromie Winsor, new committee member representing the Chicago Metro Section and Illinois chapters of the American Planning Association.

Heather Smith announced that all were invited to a free preview opening reception that evening for the *Neighborhoods Go Green* exhibition at the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

3.0 Approval of Meeting Notes

A motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2010, was made by Heather Smith and seconded by Heather Tabbert. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Legislative Update – John Allen, CMAP

John Allen of CMAP offered to answer questions from committee members regarding the legislative report of November 4, 2010.

5.0 Implementation of *GO TO 2040:* **Technical Assistance** – Bob Dean, Pete Saunders, and Hala Ahmed, CMAP

Building upon the previous month's overview of regional technical assistance programs around the country, Bob Dean walked the committee through the memo detailing a draft proposal for CMAP's own upcoming technical assistance program, which will be supported by the 3-year Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant that CMAP is receiving from HUD (please see memo entitled "Implementation of GO TO 2040: Technical Assistance").

Norm West raised the question whether newly-hired CMAP staff would be fully trained in the recommendations and principles contained in the *GO TO 2040* plan (Bob responded that they certainly would.) Judy Beck similarly noted that consultants hired via CMAP grant money should also be fully versed in the principles and recommendations of *GO TO 2040*.

As detailed in the memo, Hala Ahmed then provided an updated overview of CMAP's new collaboration with the RTA, integrating a CMAP grant program, supported by UWP funding, with the RTA's existing Community Planning grant program. Judy Beck encouraged CMAP to guide potential applicants to *GO TO 2040*, as many of the communities most in need are likely not to know about the plan.

Bob Dean then proceeded with the walkthrough of the memo. Jeromie Winsor asked how permanent these activities would be. Bob Dean answered that HUD funding is for three years, but CMAP plans to continue with its Local Technical Assistance program beyond the period of this funding. Jeromie responded that a commitment (and ability) to follow through with implementation is important, especially considering the realities of the most needy communities who may be helped by this program. There is a particular need to build capacity in these communities. Bob responded that it should help that in most cases, it is expected that new CMAP staff will spend three days a week in the communities they are assigned to. Rob Cole mentioned that CMAP's partners can additionally assist with the necessary follow-through.

Steve Lazzara noted that previously, NIPC had provided "conduits"—staff members who were able to provide guidance for persons at the local level to resources provided by NIPC and others. Bob responded that Planning Liaisons (aka P.L.'s) can serve this role going forward.

Nora Beck from CNU asked what about communities that don't know about CMAP or the *GO TO 2040* plan. Bob responded that CMAP's outreach staff (existing and to be hired) can assist with this. Nora followed up, asking whether CMAP had in mind a 'list of problem communi-

ties,' to which Bob responded that CMAP does not, and underscored that CMAP will not go into communities and try to force them to accept our assistance—it is, instead, a matter of education and outreach.

Jim LaBelle observed that it is often the 'rules of the game'—such as the important role of sales taxes and competition between different communities—that cause some communities to make poor decisions about land use, etc. He suggested that perhaps CMAP's approach should be 'how can we help you become the kind of community you want to be?' He also suggested that CMAP's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) could play a role identifying communities in need. Jim also observed that there could be a problem with the sense of ownership at the local level.

Last, Jim asked Bob whether CMAP sees this as an in-house consultancy team (i.e. working as a *team*, because one person is unlikely to have the full range of expertise needed by the community). Bob responded that the person assigned to a given community will draw on the expertise of their colleagues at CMAP and at partner organizations and agencies as needed.

7.0 Next Meeting:

January 19, 2011

8.0 Other Business

None

9.0 Public Comment

None

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Ostrander

Staff Liaison to the Land Use Committee